

OGC/B-9032

19 February 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, WH/II

SUBJECT : United States Laws on Internal Security and Related Matters

1. Attached for your use as requested are copies of a number of laws of this country concerning Communist party control, espionage, sabotage, and internal security generally. The delay in filling your request has been occasioned by the fact that some of the accompanying matter was temporarily out of print. Even that which is available is not all up-to-date and in some cases we have had no success in finding the laws as currently amended except in the United States Code and other publications. In such form they would be difficult to use as well as to ship.

2. As you know, many provisions of our anti-subversive laws are being tested by litigation. Some of these cases will drag on for years and there is no way to predict the outcome. Consequently, the value of the statutes may be limited to a certain extent depending of course upon the effect, psychological or otherwise, which United States Court decisions would have on the using service.

3. It should be kept in mind that regardless of how effective our laws in this field may be, their usefulness in another political and legal system cannot be the same. These laws are designed to operate within a governmental framework which has not changed radically in one hundred and seventy years. They are meant to work as part of a legal system based on the common law. Needless to say they cannot entirely meet the needs of a different system of government and political climate combined with a legal system based upon the civil law.

4. This Office has limited facilities for academic research in foreign law. Under the circumstances, if you feel that legislation in Canada and various Latin American countries would be useful, we suggest that you arrange to obtain it through the library. The Agency Library may be able to make arrangements for such research in the foreign law section of the Library of Congress which has the best facilities available locally.

5. The Communist Control Act of 1954 which is printed at page 377 of the compilation of Crimes, Kidnaping and Prison laws has been amended and had some sections repealed since the publication of the compilation. We are still trying to get an up-to-date version or at least slip-law copies of the amendments to supplement the attached material. We will send it to you if we are successful.

OGC/JDM:bab

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